

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims under 35 USC §102(e). In response, Applicant has submitted declarations of each of the inventors under 37 CFR 1.132.

The claims have been amended to correct various typographical errors. Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-27, and 29-42 remain pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Aviani et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,798,125, ('Aviani' hereinafter). In response, inventor declarations are submitted herewith under 37 CFR 1.132. In these declarations, each inventor declares that the material in Aviani cited by the Examiner discloses the invention of the inventors of the above-referenced application.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references. In addition, it is submitted that the dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons. The limitations recited in the independent claims or the dependent claims are not further-discussed as the above-discussed reasons are clearly sufficient to show that the invention disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,798,125 is not the invention "by another." Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102(e).

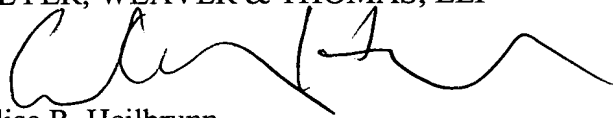
SUMMARY

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. CISC199).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise R. Heilbrunn', written over the firm name.

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